

Now is the time for a solution.

More than 20 years ago, (in 1977 and 1979) the leaders of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities reached two high-level agreements which provided for the establishment of a bi-communal, bi-zonal federation.

For the last 29 years, there has been a Turkish Cypriot leader presiding over a regime recognized only by Turkey and condemned as "legally invalid" by the U.N. Security Council in resolution 541 (1989) and 550 (1984).

Cyprus has been divided by the green line—a 113-mile barbed wire fence that runs across the island.

In April 2003, the Turkish occupation regime partially lifted restrictions on freedom across the artificial line of division created by Turkey's military occupation.

Since then, hundreds of thousands of Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots have crossed the line, to visit homes and areas of their own country that were inaccessible to them for nearly 30 years.

With 35,000 Turkish troops illegally stationed on the island, it is one of the most militarized areas in the world.

This situation has also meant the financial decline of the once rich northern part of Cyprus to just one quarter of its former earnings.

The occupation of Cyprus is perhaps the single most destructive element of Turkey's fiscal and foreign policy.

We now have an atmosphere where there is no valid excuse for not resolving this longstanding problem.

Cyprus signed the Accession Treaty to the European Union on April 16, 2003 at which time President Papadopoulos pledged that the Greek Cypriot community and his government will "continue the efforts to reach a solution to the Cyprus question both before and after Cyprus joins the EU" in May 2004.

Of course, it would be desirable if a negotiated settlement to end the Turkish occupation and reunite the island were to be achieved prior to that date, Cyprus' EU accession will go forward regardless of a settlement. EU membership for Cyprus will clearly provide important economic, political, and social benefits for all Cypriots, both Greek and Turkish alike. This is why both sides must continue to negotiate.

There are also signs of a new climate of co-operation between Turkey and Greece. More has been achieved in the past several years than in many before.

The U.S., the EU, Greece and Cyprus have all acted to accommodate Turkish concerns, and it is time for Turkey to complete the peace process in good faith.

And make no mistake about it, if Turkey wants the Cyprus problem resolved, it will happen.

It will take diligent work by both sides, but with U.S. support and leadership, I am very hopeful that we will reach a peaceful and fair solution soon.

Twenty-nine years is too long to have a country divided. It is too long to be kept from your home. It is too long to be separated from family.

We have seen many tremendous changes around the world. It is time for the Cypriots to live in peace and security, with full enjoyment of their human rights.

I hope that when I speak in Congress on the same subject next year, that freedom and unification will have been achieved.

In recognition of the spirit of the people of Cyprus, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Cyprus Federation of America, and in solemnly commemorating the 29th anniversary of the invasion of Cyprus. I hope that this anniversary will mark the advent of true freedom and peace for Cyprus.

Finally, I would like to say goodbye to a good friend and colleague Cyprus' Ambassador to the United States, Mrs. Erato Marcoullis. After nearly five years of service in our nation's capital, Ambassador Marcoullis will be leaving in August to assume a high-level post in the Foreign Ministry in the Cypriot capital of Nicosia. We will miss her, but next year I hope to join together and celebrate a unified Cyprus.

Long Live Freedom.

Long Live Cyprus.

Long Live Greece.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AMERICAN MANUFACTURING WORKS ACT OF 2003

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 2908, American Manufacturing Works Act of 2003.

This bill will assist American manufacturing in four significant ways. It will establish an Undersecretary of Commerce for Manufacturing and Technology heading the Manufacturing and Technology Administration; it will create a manufacturing research and implementation program; it will provide full funding for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program; and it will promote and fund education programs for manufacturing technicians.

Manufacturing is the primary source of productivity growth in our country. This sector remains critical to the nation's future prosperity and security. Yet U.S.-based manufacturers are facing a crisis today—a crisis marked by a steep decline in business investment, a sluggish global economy, and increased competition from low wage countries.

The American manufacturing sector has been hard hit by these forces, but neither this Congress nor the Administration has risen to meet this challenge in any direct way. The manufacturing sector has experienced 32 consecutive months of job losses, totaling 2.3 million jobs—fully 90 percent of the total jobs lost during this period. Although recent manufacturing statistics are mildly positive, the current manufacturing recovery is the weakest on record. Our manufacturing base remains fragile.

I think the federal government needs to take action now to respond to this crisis and to sustain our manufacturing base.

This is essential because despite significant job losses, manufacturing still employs 16.5 million people. Manufacturing contributes roughly 17% of GDP and provides 71% of our exports. Manufacturing funds 67% of our nation's total R&D investment. In addition, manufacturing companies are major customers for information and communications technology.

But if our manufacturing base continues to decline, the effect will be devastating not only

in terms of individual job losses, but also in terms of the ripple effects that will be felt throughout our economy.

In short, we can't afford to stand idly by and watch our manufacturing base disappear.

The bill I am introducing today isn't based on trade policy or philosophical theory. It's based on the practical recommendations of manufacturing experts, industry associations, and labor unions—recommendations that can be acted on now to produce results in a very short time.

First, this bill creates a point of interaction for manufacturers in the Department of Commerce. Rather than creating a whole new bureaucracy, this bill restructures the Department of Commerce's Technology Administration to emphasize manufacturing as well as technology issues. This bill creates a Manufacturing and Technology Administration, headed by the Undersecretary of Manufacturing and Technology. An Assistant Secretary for Manufacturing will aid the Undersecretary for Manufacturing and Technology to develop a federal manufacturing agenda.

This legislation also creates a Manufacturing Advisory Board to provide guidance to the Undersecretary and to the National Institute of Standards and Technology regarding the manufacturing community's needs. The Manufacturing Advisory Board will be comprised of industry and industry association representatives, federal agencies with manufacturing initiatives, manufacturing experts, and labor representatives. This group will provide an array of views from the complete spectrum of our manufacturing base.

The bill also authorizes a significant research and implementation program for manufacturing. The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is authorized to develop a program along the lines of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) that will focus on manufacturing technologies. In addition, NIST's Advanced Technology Program is authorized to develop a focused program on manufacturing technologies.

The bill also authorizes funding for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program. This successful program leverages federal, state and private investment to assist small- and medium-sized manufacturers across the nation in meeting their increasing challenges.

One of the most critical elements of our manufacturing base is to have a technically trained workforce. To help develop this workforce, the bill leverages the National Science Foundation's (NSF) successful Advanced Technological Education Program to include preparation of students for manufacturing jobs. In addition, the bill authorizes funding for the Manufacturing Skill Standards Council to develop performance standards to certify job skills for manufacturing workers.

Mr. Speaker, the time is past for more studies on the challenges facing our manufacturing base. That has already been done, and recommendations have been made. This bill offers some concrete actions to help ensure the future health of our manufacturing base. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation.